

BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN RE COMPLIANCE)	PDC CASE NO. 01-181
WITH RCW 42.17)	
)	DISMISSAL ORDER
Citizens for Fair and Open Government)	
Spokane Municipal Election Council)	
Spokane Voter Alliance)	
John Talbott for Strong Mayor Committee)	
Respondents.)	

BRIEF FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On January 10, 2001, the Public Disclosure Commission staff filed a complaint alleging that Metropolitan Mortgage & Securities Co., Inc., Citizens for Fair and Open Government, Spokane Municipal Election Council, and Spokane Voter Alliance violated RCW 42.17.105(8) by contributing over \$5,000 to the John Talbott for Strong Mayor committee within 21 days of the 2000 general election.

The Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (Commission) conducted an enforcement hearing for Metropolitan Mortgage & Securities Co., Inc. under chapters 34.05 and 42.17 RCW and chapter 390-37 WAC on September 27, 2001.

The Commission conducted the hearing to consider the Summary of Facts and Violations, along with a stipulation entered into between Metropolitan Mortgage & Securities Co., Inc. and the Public Disclosure Commission staff, and to consider whether to accept the stipulation in lieu of a full enforcement hearing.

The Commission held the hearing at Evergreen Plaza Building, Room 206, 711 Capitol Way South, in Olympia, Washington. Metropolitan Mortgage & Securities Co., Inc. was represented by Michael K. Vaska, attorney. The Staff appeared through F. Neil Gorrell, Assistant Attorney General.

1 PDC Staff submitted to the Commission a memorandum dated September 17, 2001
2 recommending that the Commission dismiss the complaint against Citizens for Fair and Open
3 Government because the committee received contributions from many sources and it made no
4 substantive contribution to the Talbott campaign within 21 days of the general election. PDC
5 Staff also recommended that the Commission dismiss the complaint against Spokane
6 Municipal Election Council and the Spokane Voter Alliance because both were political
7 committees in name only – the primary activity of both committees was funded by
8 Metropolitan Mortgage and Securities Co., Inc. PDC Staff also recommended that the
9 Commission dismiss the complaint against the John Talbott for Strong Mayor Committee
10 because no evidence was discovered to prove that either Talbott, his treasurer, or other officers
11 of his campaign were aware that Metropolitan Mortgage & Securities Co., Inc. had contributed
12 in excess of \$5,000 to the John Talbott for Strong Mayor Committee within 21 days of the
13 general election.

14 At its regular meeting in the PDC offices in Olympia, Washington on September 27,
15 2001, the Commission considered the Staff recommendation. Following review of Staff's
16 recommendation, the Commission by a vote of 5-0 directed the following:

17 ORDER

18 The complaint filed against Citizens for Fair & Open Government, Spokane Municipal
19 Election Council, Spokane Voter Alliance, and the John Talbott for Strong Mayor Committee
20 is DISMISSED.

21 DATED THIS ____ day of January, 2002.

22 FOR THE COMMISSION:

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25 VICKI RIPPIE, Executive Director